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MINDEN ONTARIO
Publications mail agreement # 40063862
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Aurora Schollig sits on the bench she built before Minden Pride this year. The design of the bench was inspired by the progress pride flag. Aurora sits with her two dogs, Shooter and T-Rex. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

New Dawn Design Centre brings pride bench to Bobcaygeon Road

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Aurora Schollig has lived in Minden for over 30 years.

"After college, I had a customer that had a cottage burn down and I built it with him in the month of August. The hottest August on record," said Schollig. "And I stayed. That was 35 years ago, I migrated from Dwight, to Dorset, then to Minden."

Schollig opened New Dawn Design Centre at her 134 Bobcaygeon Road location in Minden for the Victoria Day long weekend last year. New Dawn Design Centre is an extension of The Toolbox and Lakeland Millwork and Windows. Lakeland Millwork and Windows has been operated by Schollig for over 30 years. Schollig purchased her 134 Bobcaygeon Road storefront in 2019. Visitors to Schollig's store will be greeted by T-Rex, the German Shepherd and Shooter, a

see AURORA page 3

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/Photos submitted

Minden hockey player hits success on the baseball diamond

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

Life kicked Austin Boylan off the ice so he went to the batting cages.

And the move, while borne of happenstance, has been working out for him so far.

Boylan, a 5-foot-9 outfield-infield player who grew up in Minden, committed to North Dakota State University and will be part of the school's baseball program. It's a NCAA Division 1 school and he'll hit the books and the diamond in Fargo in September 2025.

Success in baseball is not normal for kids coming out of the area. It isn't normal for kids coming out of Canada, really.

"We've worked hard on this for three and a half years," said Jason Boylan, Austin's father.

The Highlands Storm hockey player was forced out of the sport by the COVID-19 pandemic that shuttered arenas across the province.

"I love everything about baseball," Austin said. "The pace of the game, the way it's played."

He has cultivated a particular focus at the dish. And that was something recruiters from universities south of the border saw in him on the field.

Jason said Austin played a Canadian Futures Showcase hosted by the Toronto Blue Jays a few years ago. That's where Austin received personal hitting advice from none other than Matt Stairs, the New Brunswick-born slugger who holds the record for most pinch hit home runs in Major League Baseball.

Scouts from major league teams and Division 1 schools attend the showcase every year to get a heads-up on the talent coming up.

"Hitting is probably my favourite part about it," he said. "It's also one of my strengths."

And numbers don't lie.

He's been lacing cleats in the Canadian Premier Baseball League, which is the top amateur league in the country. He's nursing a .395 batting average with a .690 slugging percentage and an on-base percentage at .550.

"It feels great to be on my way. All the hard work is paying off."

Committing to a NCAA Division 1 school was his first goal. That brings him closer to the next step on his way to the Big League. That is to get drafted by one of the Major League Baseball clubs.

He plans to work to make some coin for school and to keep working out on the baseball diamond until he starts university next year.

"My coaching staff have been preparing me for that," he said. "That's the goal, to get bigger, faster, stronger."

His secret for success at the plate seems pretty simple: Practice. But there has to be something said for a slugger's eye and instinct.

He said a batter's eye is developed from repetitions with the lumber in the batting cages. That hones your timing.

"The biggest thing for me is my mentality in the box," he said. "When I step up to the plate, it's about working the counts and my approach. My approach has always been to pound the fastball. The fastball is the easiest thing to hit. It doesn't move. It's fast but, as long as you time it up, the fastball is the easiest thing to hit."

What makes him a good hitter is working the strikes to balls count at the plate.

If the batter gets behind in the count with a pair of strikes, the pitcher can hurl anything he wants and likely earn an out.

"But if you force the pitcher into a 3-1 count then he's probably going to slip up and throw you a fastball right down the middle, he said.

And he eats fastballs for lunch. Takes one with Tylenol when his headaches. When the rest of us are scouring the pantry for something to put together for a decent snack, Austin is at the plate and looking for a pitch about waist high and down the middle to dine on.

"The goal is to fight the pitcher," he said. "That's the whole point. You're battling with the pitcher, you get into a good count and work him so much that he slips up and he gives you that fastball."

Putting for Eric Nystedt

The first-annual Eric Nystedt Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was held this past Thursday at the Pinestone Resort. Nystedt was an OPP officer working out of the Minden detachment until he was tragically killed on duty in July of 1993. Members of the local Minden OPP detachment wanted to honour Eric with an annual event that would give back to the community in a meaningful way. Proceeds from the tournament will go towards the Ontario Special Olympics, Haliburton County Food and Heat Banks, Places for People, and born again bargains. Eric's mother, Mary-Lou Buerkle who was at the event wanted to thank everyone for their great work even though for her it was a bitter sweet day. "I am very proud to have been Eric's mother" 108 golfers played in this first tournament with 27 volunteers making sure the day ran smoothly.

Members of Eric Nystedt family were proud to be at the first-annual golf tournament. From left Scott Nystedt, Eric's brother; Kaleigh-Ann Nystedt, Eric's niece; Mary-Lou Buerkle, Eric's mother; Lorena-del Nystedt, Eric's sister-in law; William DeJong, Kaleigh-Ann's boyfriend.

From left, Phil Carroll, Walt McKechnie, Andrew Hodgson and Gary Brohman were one of the teams at the golf tournament.

Aurora aims to beautify the county

from page 1

huskie and German shephard mix.

"It's evolving. I like to think that I am evolving with it," said Schollig. "From the influence of my customers' needs. It's one thing to present something but if people aren't interested in it, it's not worthwhile showing it. As my customers present their ideas and concepts, thoughts, and needs for their projects I'll put together a consensus of display."

Schollig has plans to entirely change the storefront of her 134 Bobcaygeon Road location.

"When things come together that require the construction of something, Lakeland Millwork and Windows will do that work. Meanwhile New Dawn Design Centre is the element of designing and putting the concepts together so that Lakeland can construct it.

Schollig also has a studio space in Toronto that she travels to during the week. This allows her to accept clients from Haliburton County and Toronto.

"A lot of people that summer here are from Toronto," said Schollig. "Because I've done work for them here, they ask if I can do work for them there. It is a nice combination that keeps me in touch with my family in Toronto. When times are tough in the Highlands, I have work coming out of Toronto, so it is a nice mix."

"I've been fortunate enough to be steady year-round. It is a wonderful thing that my clients have a trusting faith in me to do a lot of the things they ask for. I have a great support around me that advocates for me," said Schollig.

Currently, Schollig works entirely for herself with her businesses. "I shouldn't say that I am slowing down. I am somewhat retired and wanting more often to be in my happy place. This is my happy place. I am blessed to be able to do what my customers are asking for. Everything from furniture repair to complete new interiors," said Schollig. "My passion is trim. Trim for doors and windows. Hanging doors, installing trim, lining everything up and installing windows."

"I am concentrating on the development of me and New Dawn Design Centre," said Schollig. "I am doing more planning as opposed to reacting now. I love meeting new people and being here and being able to help them." "I don't deem myself as competition, I deem myself as being able to help and give back to the community. I am looking forward to having events happen here," said Schollig. Schollig has plans for artisans from the surrounding areas to come to her location and invite customers to discuss their work and increase visibility of the artist's work.

"I had the idea of the bench for about a month. I always like having a bench at the front of the store. A lot of people like to sit because this is quite the walkway here and they need a break. I always have some form of seating at the front that I take in," said Schollig. "Pride was coming up, but it never dawned on me about the pride colours until Allan Guinan brought the flag for outside my store."

"The flag is not always there, but the bench will be there for the whole summer season. I also have posted on the windows that this is an LGBTQ+ safe place to be. It's been wonderful. I have never had a bad experience with that representation."

"I have had a rough history with Minden and I feel that it is becoming a lot more of a pleasant place to be," said Schollig. "People can be who they want to be here."

"I think it was eased when the pride bench went across the river. When that went into place, for me anyways, it seemed to cut the haze. For me, I came out five years ago after my wife's death. She always knew that I had wanted to be a woman but I respected her not wanting to be married to a woman. She understood my needs and taught me a lot of who I am today. A wonderful person, she was. My best friend, my sincerest friend, my love of 27 years."

"She was a great support and still is today, I still feel her with me. I miss her dearly. In coming out, it was wonderful as I knew everybody from before. I have not experienced any resistance."

Schollig would like to thank Gael, Hans, Sue, Sewan, Adel, and Sandy. Plus all the other wonderful women in her life and her long-lasting customers for over 30 years.

"For me, to be now a woman, I am so blessed."

Good old hockey game

Bernie Nicholls gave a talk at the Minden Hills library branch on Monday, presented in association with the Friends Cafe. Janet Trull joined Nicholls to talk about his book *From Flood Lights to Bright Lights* which discusses growing up in West Guilford, his life as an NHL player and his work with the Bernie Nicholls Foundation. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

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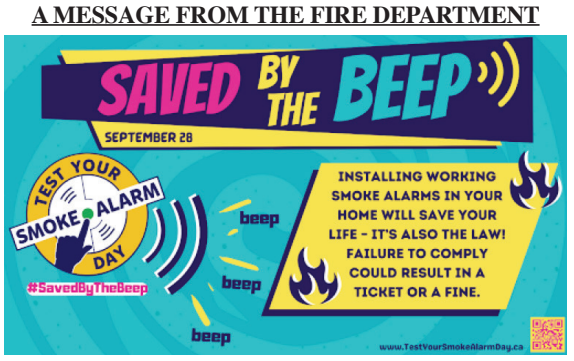
REGISTERED PROGRAMS

Check out our Adult and Youth fall registered programs, starting September 9, 2024, registration now open. Viewing of our fall offerings are online at https://townshipofmindenhills.perfectmind.com/ or pick up a handout at SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT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MINDEN HILLS Cultural Centre

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- The Agnes Jamieson Gallery is pleased to welcome back local artists Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward with their exhibit *Burner Herzog*. The exhibit is on display until November 23. Everyone is welcome. Admission is by donation. Discover the site that inspired Burner Herzog, the exhibit by Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward, now on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. We will meet at the Gallery on September 7 (rain date September 14) for an artist talk and tour of the exhibit at 10 am, then drive separately to Deep Roots Adventure for lunch, followed by a guided hike to the Burner. Cost is $25/person.
- We are offering a Mid-Autumn Festival craft for visitors to explore a fun fall Chinese tradition on Tuesday, September 17 from 3 – 4 pm. Admission is by donation. No pre-registration is required.
- The Minden Hills Museum, Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm until September 12. Join us for Wildlife Crafts on Thursday from 3-4 pm, Toddler Discovery Zone on Fridays from 11 am – noon and Hands-On Saturdays from 10 am – noon. Self-guided tours of the Heritage Village are available daily. Admission is by donation.

For more information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

ALCOHOL CONTAINER COLLECTION PROGRAM

The Alcohol Container Collection Program at our waste disposal sites has been a great success. Our organization partners are thrilled with the support and contributions. Thank you to the community for choosing to donate your empty alcohol containers through the program. You can continue to help. Help the volunteers who pick up the alcohol containers on behalf of the organizations by sorting your alcohol containers when dropping off. Please place alcohol cans in the labelled barrels. Wine bottles and alcohol bottles can be separated by colour and preferably in the original box where possible.

PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, September 12, 2024, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding Proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law.

Proposed changes are included in the following Schedules and are also available on our website.

- Schedule A Classes of Permits and Fees for Building - Short-Term Rental Fees
- Schedule C Fire
- Schedule D Cultural Centre Programs and Facilities
- Schedule F Planning Department Fees
- Schedule G Cemetery
- Schedule H Community Services Programs & Facilities
- Schedule I Environmental
- Schedule J Community Services Advertising

Members of the public wishing to **participate may attend in-person or join electronically** and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Fees and Charges By-law. Registration is required for electronic participants.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **September 12 – Regular Council Meeting**
- **September 26 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx. Visit our website for more information.

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Environmental concern draws objection to hobby farm

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

A proposed hobby farm in Algonquin Highlands has drawn a line among neighbours in favour and opposed to the venture.

That's despite the fact the small farm has already been in operation.

Township council heard arguments when it met Sept. 5 both for and against having the property rezoned to make the hobby farm officially allowed. The issue was discussed during almost two hours of the meeting.

"It does appear that there are lots of things on people's mind and they tend to fall into a few main categories (with) the environment being a significant concern for a lot of folk," said Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux who chaired the meeting in Mayor Liz Danielsen's absence.

Environmental concern is healthy and good, she said.

"It's something that we here at the township also share, to always be thinking about our lakes and our lands and our rivers," she said.

Council decided to delay a decision until an environmental impact study can be completed.

Tim and Laura Kegel have been residents of Algonquin Highlands for about 35 years. They lived most of that time on their Little Hawk Lake Road property. They were told when they bought the property from parents that the land was zoned as rural.

"I planned on starting a business at this property and wanted to make sure that I did my due diligence," Tim Kegel said in a letter to township council and staff.

So the couple started Kegel Heating out of a garage at the site. When the venture began to take off, he said they got permission from the township to install a couple of shipping containers on the property.

Tim Kegel said he and Laura started about seven years ago to think about long-term dreams for the property. Hope blossomed for a secondary residence, cabin, and a hobby farm with chickens and large gardens.

"We had been assured by the township that all our dreams were possible," he said.

In those seven years, the Kegels have invested about $300,000 in landscaping, an apple orchard, various other fruit trees, and berry bushes. They also erected electric fences to manage their farm's pigs.

"Our intention for the property is to be able to raise or grow almost all our own food with extra for extended family and friends," Tim Kegel wrote in his letter. "We also enjoy this life and is our therapeutic activity from the joys of running a business."

The subject property is just under six acres with about 360 feet of frontage by way of an unnamed right-of-way. The surrounding uses are generally shoreline residential, rural, recreational and commercial and industrial.

A report to town council said the land is currently developed with several accessory structures and a hobby farm. The principal dwelling was destroyed by fire and the owners are in the process of rebuilding.

Somebody filed a bylaw complaint about the hobby farm. Municipal staff looked into the gripe and determined the property was zoned Shoreline Residential 2 and the farm was prohibited.

The property owners believed the parcel of land was zoned Rural and that they were in compliance with bylaws.

Now the applicant is asking the parcel be re-zoned Rural with an exception that would eliminate permitted uses of the rural zone such as portable asphalt plant, commercial kennel, and group home.

The Rural-Exception Zone would allow the hobby farm to remain and permit an accessory dwelling be constructed in the future.

Sean O'Callaghan, the township's planner, said several letters both in support and opposed to the bylaw change have been received by the municipality.

One neighbour, Dennis Connolly, said he supports the property being rezoned because he weekly brings his grandson to feed the Kegel's chickens and to buy eggs.

"In all the times that I have been there I have never once noticed an odour from anything other than the smell of fresh produce," he wrote in his letter of support.

In another letter of support, Rolanda Sinclair said the size of the parcel of land should allow for a small farm "without any negative impact to adjacent property owners."

"In my opinion this family would never do anything that would compromise, harm, or change the environment of the land or the lake," wrote Dan Stiver, who said his family has lived close to the Little Hawk Lake Road property for 59 years.

"Despite all of the fear mongering probably initiated by a couple people, this looks like a minor change in use that we believe should be allowed," wrote Bruce and Cheri Hicks.

> "Given the amount of concerns that have been raised, I would suggest that council defer the application so that some of those concerns could be addressed
>
> — SEAN O'CALLAGHAN, PLANNER FOR ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS

There are residents who have voiced their opposition to the land being rezoned. Among the letters of objection sent to O'Callaghan, at least seven appear to be mirror copies with only minor variations.

Aiden and Dianne Serjeant object to the rezoning because the proposed uses don't suit the community or neighbouring properties.

"In fact, many of the permitted uses under the (Rural) designation would be detrimental to both neighbouring properties as well as property owners," they wrote.

Some shared objections to the rezoning are indicated to be based on concerns for property values, environmental ramifications, impact on lakes, compatibility with the existing community, and other reasons.

"It is important to consider the impact of run-off from a farm which would increase the nitrogen and phosphate load in the lake," said Debbie Palmer in her objection. "One of the biggest sources of nitrogen/phosphates is from agricultural activities."

Tim Kegel told council during the meeting that he eats fish caught in the adjacent lake. He nourishes the vegetables he grows with the lake's water. And, he said, he taught his children to swim in that lake.

"I've even taught some of your kids to swim and waterski in this lake," he said. "I've spent more time on and in this lake than most of the people here."

O'Callaghan said municipal staff contacted the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs about the property's proposed rezoning.

"They did note that there were no concerns from that ministry with respect to the proposal," he said.

O'Callaghan said he intended to recommend council approve the rezoning.

"But, given the amount of concerns that have been raised, I would suggest that council defer the application so that some of those concerns could be addressed," he said.

"What sort of actions would you suggest be taken between now and a subsequent consideration of the file?" Dailloux said.

"There have been a lot of environmental concerns raised, so I think having an environmental impact study completed and further consultation with the ministry, I think that could adequately address the concerns that have been raised," O'Callaghan said.

The zoning bylaw that's drafted would include the whole property, but O'Callaghan said it's indicated that farm and livestock portion of the property will be at the property's northern end away from the water. The homes and accessory structures will be at the southern end, adjacent to the waterfront.

Dailloux asked about the municipality's capacity to control animal waste or pesticide use on any property in the township.

O'Callaghan said the ministry measures "nutrient units" on properties. A property the size of the Kegel's Little Hawk Lake Road land would be permitted two nutrients, he said.

Three and a half pigs equals one nutrient unit, he said. Eight goats also measures one nutrient.

"As far as pesticide use, I'm not aware of any bylaws that we have, at least at the township level, that would restrict that," he said.

"Do municipalities in Ontario have the authority to enact such bylaws to control pesticide and fertilizers within certain zones or radiuses of water bodies?" Dailloux said.

"I'm not 100 per cent sure on that," he said. "I'd have to investigate that further."

Later in the meeting: "There is no stream or creek that runs through our property," Tim Kegel said. "None. And I'm going to repeat this again so everyone that was lied to and lied on their letters (of opposition) can hear me. There is no stream or creek that runs through our property."

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Minden summer business recap

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Ommmh…

"It's been steady," said Shawn Smandych, owner of Ommh… Hair Salon & Boutique and Eat! Cheeserie & Cocktails. Smandych describes the business as being very steady, but not stupidly busy. "A lot of people can be seen walking around but not shopping like they typically would."

Smandych says that in his 30 years of doing hair, this year has been the most cancellations and postponements of hair appointments he has ever had. Smandych is unsure as to why so many people have been cancelling and postponing appointments. He says that there could be a variety of reasons including financial insecurity, wars overseas with family in Canada having to support loved ones, and hesitancy to travel to the United States before the upcoming election. Samdych estimates that 30 to 40 per cent of his customers travel to the United States during the winter months. Recently, he has been told by some clients that they are considering leaving the county already due to some unexpectedly chilly days in August.

Smandych also says that the yo-yo weather of the past winter has not helped the confidence of Minden business owners. Smandych says that because winter tourism in Haliburton County is so dependent on things like skiing, snowmobiling, and snowboarding, business this past winter was nearly nonexistent, besides some increased business towards the holidays.

Smandych says that businesses in Minden would be greatly supported through a plan of proactivity tourism. With studies conducted by the county's former Director of Tourism being largely ignored, Smandych feels that the county is to be blamed for Minden businesses struggling during the recent balmy winter months.

Eat! Cheeserie & Cocktails

Just like Ommmh…, Eat! Cheeserie & Cocktails has had steady business throughout the summer. As the only specialty cheese shop in the entire county, Smandych says Eat! has little competition when it comes to cheese. While many people are fans of the typically orange brick of cheddar found in the grocery stores, there are dozens of flavours of cheese available at Eat! including black lemon gouda, grey owl, and champagne cheddar.

"People are in the headspace of unless you are in Haliburton, you're a nobody," said Smandych. Smandych says that all businesses in Minden face a decline in the winter, with many shuttering their doors from January to May. Recently, Minden Pride has been a huge bolstering for Smandych's businesses. With Minden Pride being one of the largest pride festivals in Ontario, Smandych is thankful for the support his businesses receive during the festivities.

Dominion Hotel

"The weather behaved. It was nice to reconnect with our seasonal customers," said Shawn Chamberlin, owner of the Dominion Hotel. Chamberlin says that business this summer is similar to last year. However, the traffic patterns of visitors seem to be changing.

Chamberlin says that more customers are arriving earlier for dinner. In the past, Chamberlin could predict that the busiest dinner rush in the kitchen was around 7 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., however he says the kitchen is getting busy around 5 p.m. Many customers have approached Chamberlin to discuss the paranormal activity and investigation that took place in early August. Chamberlin also says that he has seen very little American currency. He is unsure if it is due to a lack of American tourists or if people are holding on to their American currency tighter due to the poor exchange rate.

"It's fascinating that it isn't showing up," said Chamberlin. Chamberlain is already beginning to plan events for the Christmas season and is gearing up for an exciting fall.

"September is my favourite month and we are looking forward to September," said Chamberlin.

The River Cone

Monica and Ben Scott, bought the River Cone in 2021. After purchasing the River Cone, they improved upon the building significantly, adding the iconic fish sculpture, and exterior awning. They also increased the food options available to customers. Monica Scott says that between 2021 and 2023 their business increased by 137 per cent. However, Scott says that their 2024 season so far has been flatlined. Their most popular items on their menu this year have been the buttermilk fried chicken and their daily specials. The River Cone served around 30,000 visitors this season so far.

"People have started to see us as a food establishment and not just an ice cream spot," said Scott.

This year, the River Cone has brought back music by the Gull to attract more customers and visitors to the downtown core. Scott says that they have had no issues in staffing the River Cone and occasionally felt that they were overemployed. Scott says that they try their best to foster a sense of family for their employees. Many employees have returned to work at the River Cone year after year.

"We try to pay people the value we see them as when working with us," said Scott.

Scott says that she is thankful that there are such wonderful restaurants in the area. The more options for customers, the better business can be. Scott's dream was to run a business that serves her community. Scott says that she gets great pleasure running the River Cone and serving high quality food at an accessible price point.

"We want to put Haliburton Highlands on the map for food options," said Scott.

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InOtherWords

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Letters to the Editor must be signed and include phone number. Unsigned letters will not be published. Email must include name and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Print Subscriptions 1 yr/ $51 (taxes included). Published each Wednesday by White Pine Media
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Respect Davis Lake

ALL BOATERS know the rules of clean + drain + dry.

There are signs at every boat launch throughout Haliburton County with accompanying signs showing invasive species like zebra mussels, round gobies and Eurasian watermilfoil.

You need to know that plant species and eggs can be transferred on the surface of boats, survive in the bilge water, and the need to dry any wet areas of your boat.

Last week, residents of Davis Lake contacted me with a strange issue that they have been having at their boat launch.

Groups of off-road enthusiasts have been driving their UTVs and other offroad vehicles directly into the lake and washing off their vehicles.

THOMAS SMITH
Editor

The lineup for ATVers goes down the road, waiting for their turn to wash debris, mud, plants, oils, and other contaminants directly into Davis Lake.

Davis Lake is a trout lake. These lake trout are highly susceptible to contamination and are threatened by invasive species taking over their water system.

Residents at Davis Lake say that whenever they approach the individuals, they are sworn at and greatly intimidated by the large group of people.

With Kawartha ATV Association's commitment and assurance to private landowners that riders will respect their property, it is baffling that this gross disrespect of Davis Lake has gone unnoticed. No statement by the ATV Association has been made.

The Davis Lake Cottage Association has reached out to Minden Hills for assistance with this ongoing issue. The Director of Recreation Services says that the ongoing issue of off-road enthusiasts washing their vehicles off in Davis Lake is a problem, but one the township is not able to do anything about.

The residents of Davis Lake are concerned for the health of their beloved lake. For cottagers and residents of the lake, they have tight restrictions for use of the lake and its water. Absolutely no greywater is able to be put into the lake.

One resident asked me why they are unable to wash their hair in the lake, while these supposed 'out of town' ATVers are able to spray down the muddy vehicles with who knows what chemicals and soaps off directly into the lake?

Despite my efforts in contacting the Ministry of the Environment to discuss the legal ramifications of these actions, I have not received word back.

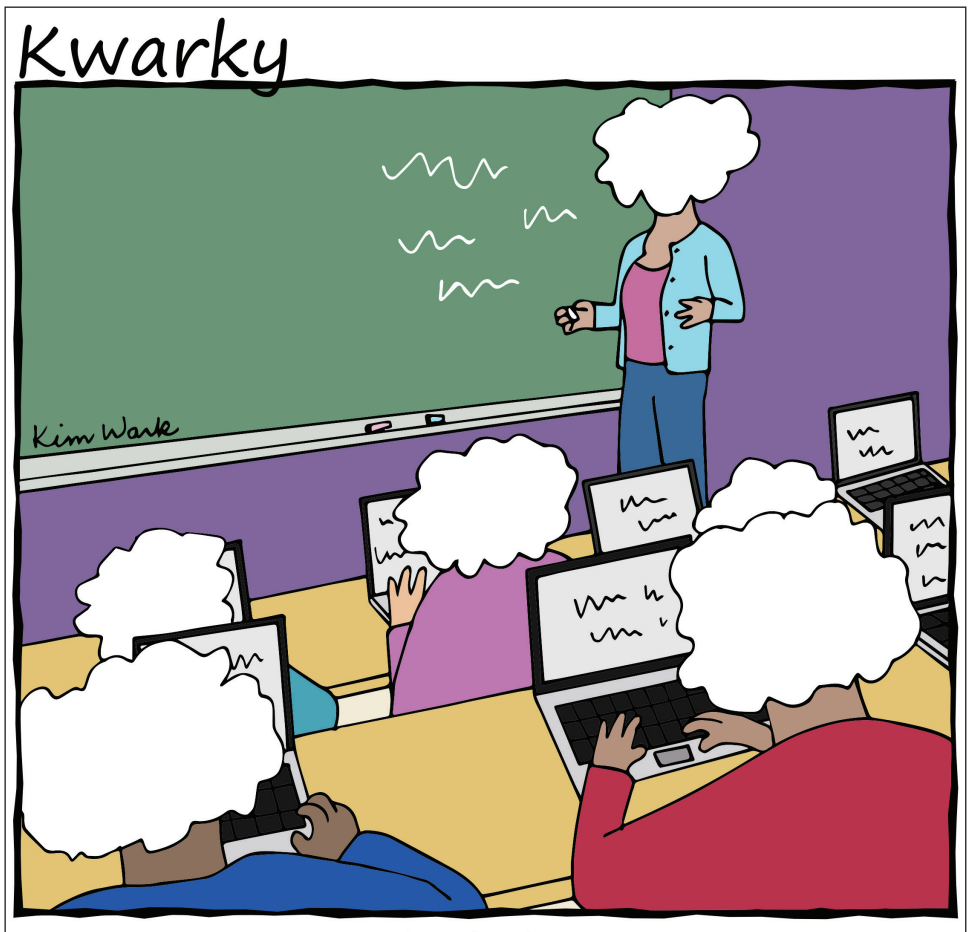
It has been two weeks.

It feels like the blame is being thrown around to different agencies. No one is willing to stand up and try and put a stop to this.

These off-road enthusiasts are abusing our waterways. Families swimming in the water at the public boat launch are forced to leave when these off-road enthusiasts churn up the water with their dirt. The official ATV trails near Davis Lake are used by the Kawartha ATV Association. While this isn't exactly their backyard, they have no right coming here and contaminating our lakes.

All the mud and water off of their vehicles can bring plants, eggs, and other invasive critters into Davis Lake. Their actions can permanently ruin its fragile ecosystem.

These resource abusers should be ashamed of themselves. I understand that the county does not have the resources for enforcement, but something needs to be done to protect the health of our lakes.



The Cloud Classroom

Motoring

LAST WEEKEND my brother and I travelled to one of our favourite waterfowl spots to build a duck blind.

Unfortunately, we chose to do this on an incredibly windy day. Worse still, my brother's formerly reliable 15 horsepower motor, decided to act like an underpowered eggbeater that day. This turned what is normally a 10-minute ride back to the landing, into a 40-minute cruise. This was made even less pleasant by the fact that we were running against the wind and fighting high waves and whitecaps.

Even so, we remained calm and collected, provided you discount that one point when I was seriously considering standing on the bow and singing "My heart will go on."

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

But here's what I came to realize.

When you are in water with high waves and a questionable outboard the best thing to do is come up with plausible contingency plans. For instance, I readied an oar, so that I could use it to whack my brother in the head should his motor quit completely. For my brother had broken the cardinal rule. He brought out an unreliable and practically useless unit to build duck blinds with – and the boat and motor weren't any good either.

At one point in the journey, I actually started thinking about the geography of the big water we were on and how to best survive a shipwreck on its desolate shores. My plan was simple. I would build an unapproved hut so that we would immediately be found and rescued by a local by-law officer.

I also began thinking of a plausible back injury to fake, should rowing become our only option. I settled on sciatica.

The sad truth is, in a situation like this, you must be prepared to throw dignity overboard.

Luckily, none of these options were required. The boat, though slow, ploughed through the whitecaps and waves while my brother and I tried to identify what the problem was with the motor, even though we both know as much as the inner workings of an outboard as we do about astrophysics.

If you think I'm exaggerating, let me just reveal that we both diagnosed that the elastic band that ran the propeller needed rewinding. And we took the cowl off to see if we could do just that. Unfortunately, it was even worse than we thought. It turns out the elastic was gone altogether.

But all that was beside the point.

The point was we made it back to shore and they were able to pry the oar out of my hands. I'm not saying it was a long ride, but I believe by the time we beached the boat, I was experiencing the onset of scurvy.

After putting the boat back on the trailer, my brother and I went our separate ways.

I drove my car back to the county. He drove his boat and motor straight to a marine mechanic. This is not something that any backyard outboard motor mechanic ever wants to do. But the truth is, sometime you just can't find the right sized elastic.

And that's when these technicians are the guys and gals you must visit. It's never easy, and it is sometimes humbling. But you have to accept that they know more about motors than you, and then just give them props.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Information moves fast, but we don't have to

IN MY LAST year of high school, I went on a field trip to a university where we worked on a research project in their library. I distinctly remember using a card catalogue to search for items in the library. A card catalogue was a big cabinet with drawers upon drawers of neatly typed index cards that listed each resource and where it was. You would flip through the cards, write down the pertinent information, and then go find the resource on the shelves. Finding information was slow work and could involve multiple trips between the shelves and the card catalogue.

By the time I enrolled in university the next year, card catalogues in libraries had largely been replaced by online catalogues. This was great because I could search for what I needed from the comfort of my residence, make a list, and then head to the library to pull what I needed. The internet was still new then, and professors sternly warned us against using newfangled information resources like Wikipedia. Since then, Wikipedia has proven itself to be a reasonably good resource when used appropriately. But at the time, I would have been docked marks for citing it in an assignment.

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING
Humans and Technology

In the latter half of my bachelor's degree, research for my assignments could be done almost exclusively online. More and more journal articles were available online, accessible with my university library card. Trips to the library were reserved for older items available only in print, to work on group assignments, or for a change of scenery. Within the span of only a few years, information that would take an entire day of work to gather now took only a few hours. The internet being dubbed the "information superhighway" at the time was apt. Information was now fast, plentiful and at your fingertips.

This increase in speed and quantity, however, has not necessarily meant an increase in the quality of information we have access to. Poor quality information is by no means a modern affliction – it's always been important to critically evaluate the information we consume whether we find it in a book, documentary, online, or by word of mouth. However, the massive amount of information we have to sift through makes it more difficult to discern what information is reliable.

A new method of evaluating information asks us to slow down our information seeking behavior and take the time to critically evaluate that information. Created by Mike Caulfield of the University of Washington, the SIFT method (also called "The Four Moves") stands for:

- Stop
- Investigate the source
- Find better sources
- Trace claims, quotes, and media to their original context

The first step, stop, asks us to take a pause before we share the information we are seeing and do a gut check. Did the information rile us up on some way? Did it make us angry or scared? That in itself could be a clue that the information we are viewing is not accurate. Social media engagement often relies on "rage farming" to make us share information that evokes a strong emotional response but that might not be reliable.

The next three steps involve fact checking. This includes looking up the background of the source of information, verifying it by looking for other trustworthy sources, and checking whether the information has been taken out of context. These steps can be applied to any source of information – be it from a book, video, podcast, or website.

In practice, using the SIFT method might look like this:

Your friend posts an article from a website that you've never heard of with a sensational headline. The headline has made you kind of upset, which might mean that the post is meant to push your buttons so you are more likely to push that share button. So you stop.

Then you open Google and search for the website which leads to a Wikipedia article about the organization that wrote the article. Turns out, they have a history of repeating poorly sourced stories.

Then you search for the topic of the article and realize that no reputable news sources have posted about it. Not CBC, CTV, *Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*… no one.

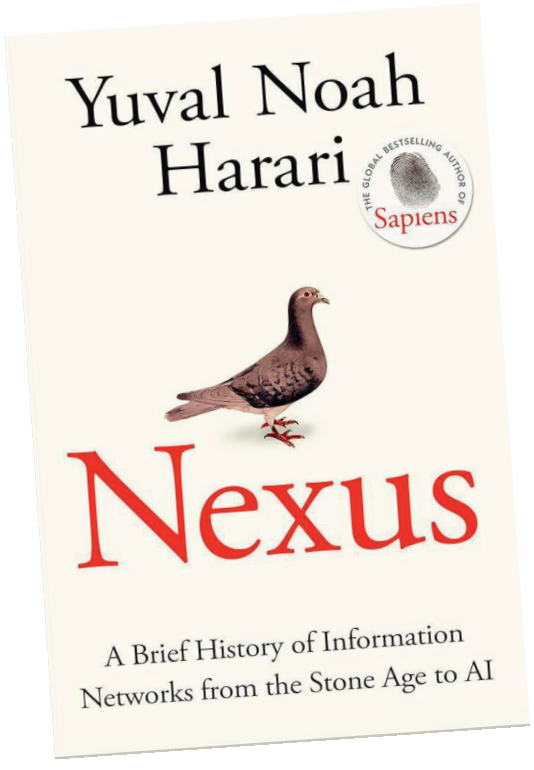
Finally, you find that the claims in the article all came from a joke video on TikTok – not based on fact at all.

One of the major strengths of the SIFT method is its first step. If you have no time to fact check, simply stopping and not sharing can vastly decrease the proliferation of lies and misleading information online. Information may move fast, but that doesn't mean we have to.

Minden Memories

An aerial photo of Minden circa 1960. The Gull River is visible on the left. Notice the building at the corner of Newcastle Street and Bobcaygeon Road. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week


Yuval Noah Harari
THE GLOBAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
Sapiens
Nexus
A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI

For the last 100,000 years, we Sapiens have accumulated enormous power. But despite all our discoveries, inventions, and conquests, we now find ourselves in an existential crisis. The world is on the verge of ecological collapse. Misinformation abounds. And we are rushing headlong into the age of AI – a new information network that threatens to annihilate us. For all that we have accomplished, why are we so self-destructive?

Nexus looks through the long lens of human history to consider how the flow of information has shaped us, and our world. It explores how different societies and political systems throughout history have wielded information to achieve their goals, for good and ill, and addresses the urgent choices we face as AI threatens our very existence.

Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI by Yuval Noah Harari is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Archie Stouffer Elementary School

Welcome back to school

/Photos submitted

Residents ask council to beef up safety on North Shore Road

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

Some North Shore Road residents feel steps should be taken to compel reckless motorists to tap the brakes more often along that thoroughfare.

In fact, township council heard those concerns from one person of about 99 such residents during its Sept. 5 meeting.

Rae Mavor lives about half the year in the area and she's done so for the past 53 years.

"It's beautiful," she said. "It's my happy spot."

But the increased traffic on the road has become a blight of concern that darkens the spot's happiness.

"After talking to friends, we agreed that a petition would be a constructive step in bringing our concerns about the traffic to the attention of council," she said.

That constructive step netted just under 100 signatures from people who threw their support behind making North Shore Road from Highway 35 to St. Peter's Road designated a Community Safety Zone with the accompanying reduce speed limits.

In a letter to Algonquin Highlands council, Mavor said that stretch of thoroughfare is very much like an urban road, although in a rural area.

"Most vehicles travel over the posted speed," she wrote. "A lot do not respect others on the road."

Three people refused to sign the petition, Mavor said. And that was because the campaign's targeted speed limit reduction wasn't quite low enough for their liking.

"A recurring comment was that they no longer felt safe when out walking, that vehicles simply travel too quickly and come too close," she said. "Many have simply stopped walking on the road altogether and have become housebound.

"They have to drive to community events and services that are within walking distance."

Mavor said her daughter-in-law while out walking was grazed by a vehicle sideview mirror. One neighbour actually had to dive into a ditch to avoid a speeding vehicle, she said.

Such stories heard while going door to door to gather signatures for the petition "really made it clear why people don't feel safe on this road anymore," she said.

Some people commented on an increase in heavy vehicles on the road. The North Shore Road is the shortest route to Haliburton heading south from Highway 35. And that's drawn more heavy trucks that have damaged St. Peter's Road Bridge, she said.

Between Highway 35 and St. Peter's Road, there are three blind hills that have intersections. Burgundy Drive and Dominion Road meet North Shore Road near the crests of two hills. McPhail Road enters at the bottom of the third blind hill.

There are other areas described in Mavor's letter to council that detail traffic-pedestrian concerns.

"Share the road is not respected by many," she said. "A lot of people feel that they're captive to their properties now."

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux, who chaired the meeting in Mayor Liz Danielsen's absence, asked if a Community Safety Zone is the best route to take to improve safety. The OPP is required to pull over and ticket speeding drivers, but the police are seldom on that stretch of road, she said.

Mavor said installing a sidewalk isn't possible because of a lack of space along the road. It's two car widths wide.

"I know that when I go through a Community Safety Zone, I'm right on the limit," Mavor said. "I'm not going to mess around with that and it has nothing to do with fines or anything like that. I recognize the area is a risky area."

Installing speed bumps that could be removed in the fall to allow winter snowclearing won't work because speed bumps would be detrimental for ambulances and the fire department.

> "Many have simply stopped walking on the road altogether and have become housebound.
>
> — RAE MAVOR, NORTH SHORE ROAD RESIDENT

Adam Thorn, the township's public works manager, said a report is being prepared that will evaluate the feasibility of electronic speed signage.

He said 70 per cent of the traffic on North Shore Road travelled below the 50km/hr speed limit during the time the electronic speed signs were in the area to investigate their feasibility.

"There are some options out there that we would have to maybe take a look at to see what could be done," Thorn said. "All of it has a cost associated to it. Not just material going on the road, but staff time."

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Snowdon's Lincoln

A 1973 Lincoln can be found along the trail at Snowdon Park in Minden. If anyone has information on it's origin or stories surrounding the car, please contact the editor thomas@haliburtonpress.com

/THOMAS SMITH Staff

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Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 & 35
Five spins for $10. The first 4 rounds are for highest and lowest score with 2 winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

Scottish Country Dancing
When: Wednesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton United Church, 10 George St.
You don't have to be Scottish to enjoy Scottish Country Dancing. Beginners are always welcome, no partner required. Please bring soft soled indoor shoes. In order to plan the dances for the evening please RSVP to haliburtonscottishcountrydance@gmail.com by Tuesday evening. $5 per person, per evening.

Family Community Day
When: Saturday, Sept. 14,10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Kinark Outdoor Centre 1766 Queens Line Road Minden, ON
Open to all families and community members and will showcase the wide range of programming available for children and youth with complex needs and their families. Outdoor rock wall climbing, archery, canoeing, and pedal boating in the morning, followed by a delicious BBQ lunch on the main field. The afternoon will offer time at the waterfront: canoeing or pedal boarding, tie dying. Participants are asked to dress for the weather and to bring closed toed shoes and a water bottle. Pre-registration is required for this event. Contact Elisha Weiss at elisha.weiss@kinark.on.ca or 705-320-0045 with any questions or to confirm your registration.

"Shatter the Silence" 2nd annual Minden "Take Back The Night" march
When: Thursday, Sept 19, 5 to 7 p.m.
Where: Meet on the grass in front of Canadian Tire, 92 Water Street
Opening Ceremony 5 to 5:30 p.m. March along Minden Riverwalk. Speakers and performers to be announced. For more information contact the Women's Centre of Haliburton County 705-286-1942

Haliburton County Historical Society Annual Pork Roast Dinner
When: Saturday, Sept. 21, 5:30 p.m.
Where: Stanhope Firefighters Hall, 1123 Northshore Road
$30 per person. For tickets call 705-754-0427

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Borgdorff family provides aid abroad

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

/Submitted

"We were planning to do this trip several years ago but when COVID hit our plans were changed," said Annabelle Borgdorff.

Graham and Rebeka Borgdorff were finally able to travel to Colombia and Guatemala with their children Gideon, Isaac and Annabelle for their humanitarian trip from February 10 to 24.

"We started fundraising last summer," said Annabelle.

Through word of mouth, news of the humanitarian trip spread. Fundraising events included a walkathon with Water Ambassadors Canada and the SHINE (An acronym for serve, help, invest, nurture, and empower) benefit concert was held at the Lakeside Church in Haliburton this January. Water Ambassadors Canada was founded by longtime Haliburton County residents Barry Hart and Heather Alloway in 2002.

In Colombia, the family assisted at daycares Hogar de Paz and Buena Samilla. "There we played games, did crafts, taught a story, shared hygiene practices, and simply assisted the teachers. At El Camino we helped with literacy, reading one-on-one with kids to help them with their English language acquisition, and that is where Graham performed maintenance tasks. The Principal of El Camino, Beth Afanador, assisted us in planning out our entire itinerary in Colombia," said Rebeka.

"It brought awareness to us," said Rebeka. "And now, what do we do with this information? Well, it is prompting us to go back. You just get so touched by that situation and you see the simplicity of how they are living. It is poor and it is sad but it is also something really beautiful because they are some of the most hospitable people we have ever met."

"By the end, you are best friends with them and you want to stay in contact with them," said Isaac. "Meeting so many people and just seeing how hospitable and endearing and how natural we all could connect, it was really cool," said Isaac.

While Water Ambassadors Canada organized the trip, ASOCAVIVA provided onsite drilling in the Barrilitos neighborhood of Tiquisate, Guatemala. ASOCAVIVA's goal is to provide remote areas of Guatemala with clean drinking water while also sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. The same drill leader their family had was the same drill leader Graham and Rebeka had 20 years ago when drilling another well in Guatemala.

"It was more fun to do this than to go to Cuba," said Gideon. "Because you actually feel good because you are doing stuff for others."

"You only get so much joy sitting on the beach," said Isaac. "When you actually go and you put yourself in a position where you can help people out as well as have a lot of fun while doing it, it is so much better."

"Hearing my children recognize that it is more about helping other folks helping out than sitting on the beach is the best experience," said Graham.

Tentatively, the Borgdorffs have plans to return to Colombia next August.

The Borgdorffs would like to thank the community for their support through supplies and finances for this mission trip.

The Borgdorffs will be raising funds and awareness for future clean water projects with Water Ambassadors Canada at their annual fall walkathon in Glebe Park on Saturday Oct. 26 at 10 a.m. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join.

Our thanks

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HAVE Board Members: Michele Coneybeare, Debbie Wales, Paul Heffer, Cathy Stephens, Jenn Watt, Carolyn Langdon

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Razzamatazz returns with *Bavela*

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Editor

Razzamatazz Kids' Shows is returning for another exciting season!

"This season Razzamataz Kids' Shows! is back with a high-quality, affordable and culturally diverse lineup of theatre performances," said Nicole Stewart, chair of the board for Razzamatazz Kids' Shows. "From animation and music, b-boying and b-girling, to acrobatics and world music and instruments, there will be something for everyone to enjoy!"

The first show of their 2024/2025 season is titled *Bavela, Stick and Bow*. *Bavela, Stick and Bow* tells the story of Bavela, a cat from Mexico exploring it's past lives.

"In October, as the community gears up for Halloween, other parts of the world such as Mexico and Latin America will be preparing to celebrate Días de los Muertos or the Day of the Dead," said Stewart. "This show is intended as a family-friendly cultural sharing of customs and other ways of living. *Bavela* is also an opportunity for kids to experience live theatre and music."

Bavela, Stick and Bow is currently touring over Ontario with six different rural locations.

The performers include Juan Sebastian and Krystina Marcoux, from Quebec. The pair have performed their work in Canada and abroad. This will be their first ever performance in Haliburton.

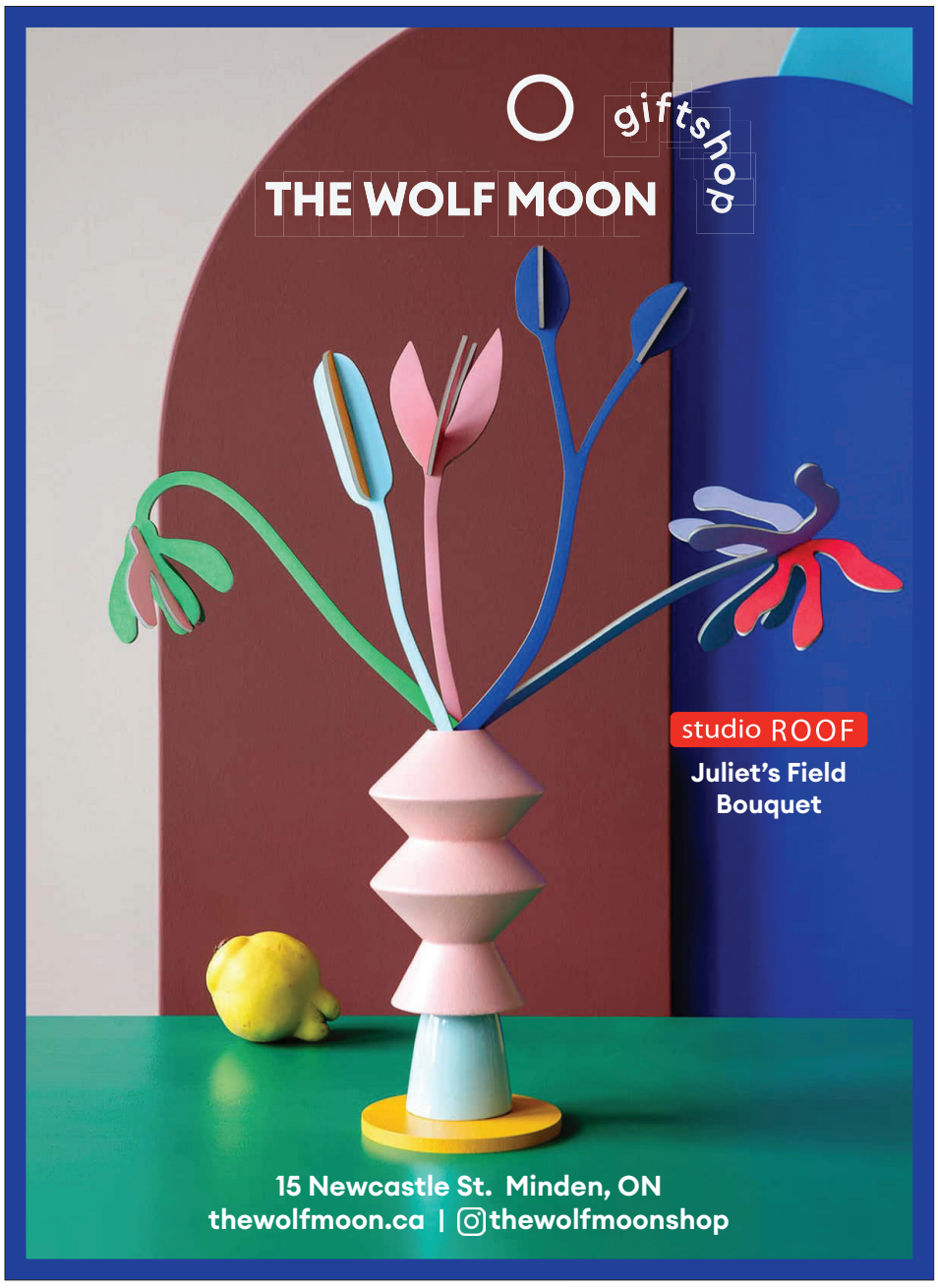
"*Bavela* has something for everyone including animation, music and a heart-warming story of a kitty who travels from Mexico to Italy, and Argentina to Egypt to prove cats are not bad luck. Along the way she finds music, dance and friendship are her guides to the solution," said Stewart. "The performance includes an animated movie, accompanied by two musical artists who play the marimba and cello while one artist narrates the show. The music includes four centuries of music with Rameau, Piazzolla, Nina Simone and many others."

"The biggest takeaway from the *Bavela* is to never let anything stand in the way of your dreams," said Stewart.

Tickets can be purchased in advance at razzamataz.ca or at the door. Tickets are $7 for children and $10 for adults. Razzamatazz would like to acknowledge the generous support of their funders: the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Arts Council, without which our work would not be possible.

Their new website, razzamataz.ca, was made possible with funding from Haliburton County Development Corporation.

"This show is for everyone, cat and dog lovers alike!"



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Highlands Summer Festival appoints new artistic producer

On the heels of another incredible season, the president of Highlands Summer Festival board of directors, Brian Kipping, is pleased to announce the appointment of Douglas, "Dougie" Walker to the position of artistic producer of the community's summer theatre company. Walker follows Scot Denton who stepped down from the post in August after 17 years with the company.

"We are delighted to have Dougie join our team in this important position," Kipping commented in making the announcement, noting that Denton had worked with the board on the appointment. "Dougie brings multiple theatre talents and experience to the job. The board and our many volunteers look forward to working with him."

Just this past summer, Walker directed and choreographed the Festival's musical comedy presentation of *The Twenty-fifth Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Patrons will also be familiar with his one person show from 2022 *Every Brilliant Thing*, and his lead role in the 2017 production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. He also brings with him extensive experience and training from Great Britain.

Dougie recently moved to Haliburton with his wife, Jocelyn Regina, and their son Lachlan. Jocelyn has been a part of numerous Highlands Summer Festival productions as an actor and crew member dating back to 2002.

"I am looking forward to working with this company," Walker commented. "Especially following on the work of Scot Denton, who has successfully guided the Highlands Summer Festival artistically for 17 years."

Denton, who moved on to other projects, stepped down as artistic producer in August. He joined the company is 2005 as a director and was appointed artistic producer in 2008. "Over the years he has directed numerous productions and mentored other directors and actors, enriching the presentations of the Highlands Summer Festival," Kipping commented. Denton wished the new artistic producer well, noting that he brings a great deal of talent and experience to the post and that he is available to consult with the board of directors during the transition. "I was pleased to see him appointed to the position and I am sure he will continue to nurture the high standards that the company has achieved over the years."

Walker will hit the ground running this fall as an immediate task is to create a line-up of productions for the coming 2025 season, which will be announced later this fall. For updates on the season please visit www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca

"We welcome Dougie to Highlands Summer Festival in his new capacity and look forward to exciting things to come," Kipping concluded.

Submitted

Places for People holds successful fundraiser

Charlie Angus, member of parliament for Timmons-James Bay, confirmed his reputation as a maverick champion of social causes as he led his six-member band, The Grievous Angels, entertaining a crowd of over 150. Angus said "We were honoured to play for such a great audience in such a great venue. We will have really great memories of Haliburton's hospitality.

At the Aug. 31 event over $2500 was raised through ticket sales and raffles. Places for People provides affordable housing across Haliburton County and recently purchased 12 additional units allowing all tenants to remain in their homes at an affordable rent. P4P uses fundraising to cover expenses of their volunteer run board as well as to maintain their units and pay down capital debt.

The Highlands Summer Festival, the Haliburton Speakers Series and the Haliburton County Folk Society spearheaded the organization of the event as well as provided raffle prizes. The Haliburton Forest provided the beautiful venue as well as prizes. The successful event proved diverse groups can work together for a common community cause.

Submitted by Susans Tromanhauser, President Places for People

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Chippies for Huskies

The Haliburton County Huskies third annual golf tournament was held this past Sunday at the Pinestone resort. Approximately 128 golfers participated in the annual fundraiser and organizer Brad Park was pleased with the turnout. “This annual fundraiser helps the Huskies stay in Haliburton, and I’d like to thank all the golfers, business owners and individuals who helped make this year’s tournament a great success” said Park. The tournament was a scramble format and after golf there was supper and a silent auction. Teammates at the first tee, from left, Corbin Votary (goalie), Issac Larmand (forward), Adam Smeeton (forward), Ryan Ramsay (Huskies Coach and GM), Lawson Ramsay (Ryan’s son), Kaiden Thather (defence), Ethan Wright (defence), Brad Park (golf tournament organizer) /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff.

Above, Issac Larmand puts a natural eagle on the first hole.

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5			9	2				
6								4
					3			
8	6		3					
			8		5		9	
9				4		7		
					9	8		3
	3							6
		4			2	1		

Level: Intermediate

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Answers on page 15

From left, Al Linauskas- Paul Longo, Vinche Duchene, Dan Marsden. /Photos submitted

From left, Rob Chapman, Kathy Chapman, Dorothy Black, Brian Black.

From left, Al Linauskas, Paul Longo, Vinche Duchene, Dan Marsden.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

5	7	8	9	2	4	3	6	1
6	9	3	7	8	1	5	2	4
4	2	1	5	6	3	9	8	7
8	6	2	3	9	7	4	1	5
3	4	7	8	1	5	6	9	2
9	1	5	2	4	6	7	3	8
2	5	6	1	7	9	8	4	3
1	3	9	4	5	8	2	7	6
7	8	4	6	3	2	1	5	9

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Township of Algonquin Highlands

NOTICE
Fees and Charges By-law

NOTICE is hereby provided that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands intends to consider amending Comprehensive Fees and Charges By-Law at its regular meeting to be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024.

The fees and charges amendments being proposed are related to the following departments:

a) Planning (Short Term Rental Licensing)
b) Administration (Dog Licensing & Records Disclosure)

For further information please contact Dawn Newhook, Clerk/Deputy CAO.

Dated: September 11th, 2024

Dawn Newhook
Clerk/Deputy CAO
Township of Algonquin Highlands
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Mr. and Mrs. Hogel of Bowmanville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Cassandra Hogel to Noah Dollo, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dollo of Minden. Noah Dollo proposed to Cassandra Hogel on July 3rd 2024 at Heather Lodge Resort. The wedding will take place in July 2025.

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LOOK INSIDE

Meet the candidates

Jerry Grozelle profiles all of the candidates in the October 2 election,

See pages 3 to 5

For love of horses

Kushog teen Laura Heise and her horse Jinks are doing well in competiton

See page 17

In Quotes

"You have to feel better with all the support we've had."

Pam Roberts, page 2

Darren Lum/TIMES

You're never too young

A young participant waits to get registered for the Terry Fox Run in Minden last Sunday. There were 152 people who walked, ran or biked to raise more than $12,000 for research into finding cures for cancer. There are more photos on page 8.

The end is near for Healthy Futures

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times staff

Healthy Futures will soon be a thing of the past after the provincial government turned down a request to lengthen its lifespan.

The provincial initiative, which provides matching funds to farmers and landowners who want to protect their water resources, is scheduled to end on December 31.

However, since the local committee has given out only $50,000 from its $300,000 bank account, it asked that the program be extended until next fall. It also asked that people be allowed to apply for projects that improve septic system replacements.

The Ministry of Agriculture, which manages the program, says that the program has already been extended for a year and has to warp up by March 31, 2004. As well, a letter from Brian Cardy, manager of the Ministry's rural investments branch, says "While I appreciate your request, septic system improvements cannot be added to your approved budget."

The response is disappointing to the local committee's chairman, Dr. Brent Wootton.

"As a committee we've done everything we can [to encourage landowners to apply for the matching funds]," he says. "There are just so many restrictions [on allowed projects] and the economy is depressed."

In a letter to Cardy on behalf of the four local municipalities sponsoring the project, co-ordinator Bill Olan says that with the Mad Cow scare and its repercussions in the beef industry, many farmers do not feel confident about spending money at this time.

"In addition," Olan writes, "tourism is an important aspect of the economy in Haliburton.

see SEPTIC *page 2*

Candidates battle it out Thursday

Highlanders will get their only chance to see the candidates in the provincial election all together in the same room this Thursday, September 25.

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has organized an all-candidates meeting at Wigamog Inn starting at 7 p.m.. Jack Brezina will moderate the county's only event before the October 2 election.

So far NDP candidate Earl Manners, PC candidate Laurie Scott, Liberal candidate Jason Ward and Doug Smith of the Green Party have confirmed they will be there. Other candidates who have been invited to attend are Paul Gordon of the Family Coalition Party, and Charles Olito of the Freedom Party.

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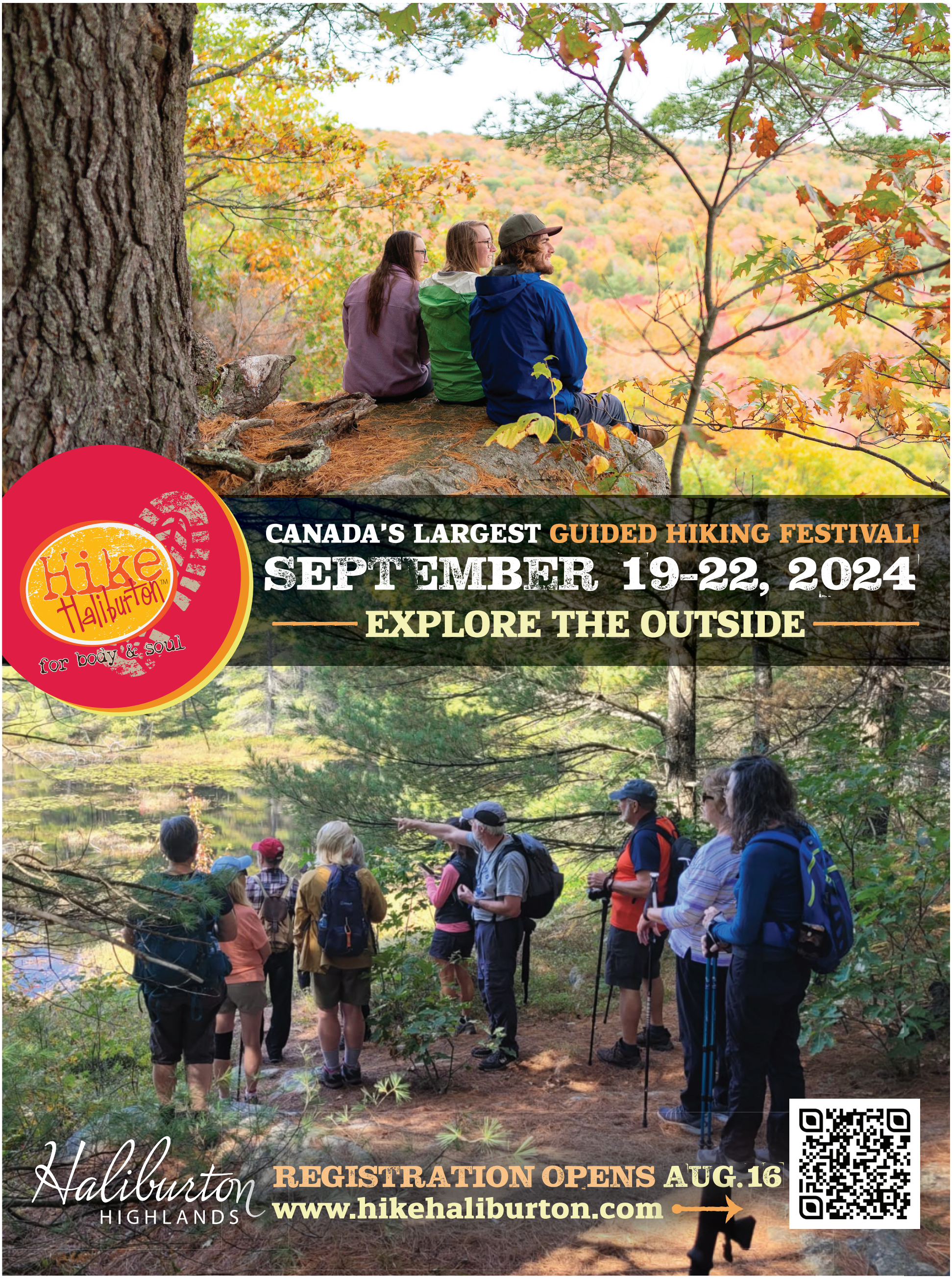
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